

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1266

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor Lipscomb University on its prestigious recognition as a green university by The Princeton Review.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize and pay tribute to those remarkable educational institutions that have distinguished themselves as national leaders in higher learning and academic disciplines; and

WHEREAS, such an exemplary institution is Lipscomb University in Nashville, which was declared one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges through recognition by the nationally known education service company The Princeton Review. Its "Guide to 286 Green Colleges," is the first, free comprehensive guidebook focused solely on institutions of higher education "...that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to sustainability" in terms of campus infrastructure, activities, and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb recently established an Institute for Sustainable Practice, to "coordinate internal sustainability practices and develop new undergraduate and graduate programs in sustainability and public outreach and service, including hosting or sponsoring local and statewide conferences, summits, a green business expo, and national lecturers." The Institute's mission is to advance the practice of sustainability through education, research, training and service to the community and the world; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb University has embraced the use of geothermal heating and cooling in new buildings, green construction practices in major renovations, a green housekeeping program, and completion of the state's first Gold-level LEED-certified higher education academic teaching and research facility; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb is the first university in Tennessee to institute an academic program in sustainability, and offers Tennessee's first "green MBA," the Southeast's first master of science in sustainability, Tennessee's first undergraduate degree in sustainability, and Tennessee's first sustainability minor; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb University is also "leading state and local dialogue and awareness" on environmental issues by hosting Tennessee's first two statewide policy conferences on sustainability and by convening and hosting the first three Green Business Summits and two green product expos; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb University has enacted a number of green improvements on campus such as trayless dining halls, native plant landscaping, bike racks, LED Christmas lighting, and free ridership for employees and students on public transit systems to encourage use of alternative transportation; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb University holds membership in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, the United States Green Building Council, the Evangelical Climate Change Initiative and is a presidential signatory to *Climate Change: An Evangelical Call to Action*; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb University President Dr. L. Randolph Lowry has shown outstanding leadership and commitment in his vision to create a sustainability institute, to promote the exploration and expansion of knowledge about sustainable practices and to advance the practice of sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean appointed President Lowry as the co-chair of the Green Ribbon Committee for Environmental Stewardship and through new mayoral initiatives, such as a LEED-certified convention center, green street projects, the Green Infrastructure Master Plan and new appointments devoted to sustainability and volunteerism is enabling Lipscomb to realize its mission to make all of Nashville its classroom; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb's College of Engineering is serving the world through missions that bring composting bathrooms and solar-powered water pumps, hospital sterilization and waste treatment to developing countries in need of healthy, prosperous and sustainable community lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb University's efforts to support and train leaders for the new green business economy and to guard sustainable natural resources for Tennessee are being realized through the simultaneous leadership and vision of Governor Phil Bredesen and the skill of cabinet members such as Commissioner Jim Fyke and his "Best in the Nation" parks; Commissioner Matt Kisber's \$4 billion in private and public investments in clean energy technology; Commissioner Susan Whitaker's sustainable tourism initiative; and Commissioner Gerald Nicely's context-sensitive and socially responsible transportation policies; and

WHEREAS, Lipscomb was awarded two 2009 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Green Schools for Higher Education and for its Campus School K-12 education sustainability efforts, as well as the annual Education Award by the United States Green Building Council in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Lipscomb University has benefitted the people of the State of Tennessee through its contributions to the development of knowledge, its preparation of leaders, and its engagement of our communities to strengthen our common life; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to applaud and recognize the outstanding commitment to excellence exhibited by the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Lipscomb University; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Lipscomb University on being recognized as a green university by The Princeton Review and commend its continuing contributions and exemplary efforts in environmental, business, social and faith-based leadership and innovation on behalf of all people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.